[763 cont.]

C 585 must empty it. Finally, on the same evening the old men dance at the young married couple's house, a fiddler (pšinato) strikes up a tune, and several young men and girls serve; a wandering C [533] minstrel (gegwako) presents congratulatory and comic songs to the accompaniment of the two-stringed violin (see p. 30).

C 595 Polygamy is permitted among the Mohammedan Abkhaz and Cherkess--among the latter it was permitted also in the sixteenth century when they were still Christians--but nearly all of them have only one wife. She lives in a part of the house reserved for her, where the man visits her secretly at night, but she is freer and more respected than is usual in the Orient (cf. p. 709 and 732 [untranslated]). Her presence prevents manslaughter and blood vengeance, and a fugitive finds protection with her (see p. 29).

C 586 The Cherkess can declare himself free of his wife in the presence of witnesses and marry again if he leaves the purchase price with her parents. If he has merely sent her back and has not taken her back within two years, her father or one of her people go to him in order to come to an agreement about the divorce; afterwards the woman, too, may marry again.

In earlier times when a Cherkess woman committed adultery, the husband had her hair shorn, cut off her sleeves, notched her ears, and sent her on horseback to her father, who C 585 sold her or put her to death. The same fate befell the bride if her husband found that she was not a virgin; he then recovered the purchase price.

Rearing of children. The Abkhaz and Cherkess noblemen and princes do not raise their children themselves. They [764] formerly entrusted them in their third or fourth year to another nobleman or peasant, who received nothing for his efforts but the best part of the booty brought home by his ward when grown up.

C 844 Soon after birth, before which the father leaves the house for several days, princely Cherkess children are put in C 608 the care of a nurse (anadzdzey) and a foster father (abadzdzey), together with cradle, linen, clothing, wash-caldron, a buffalo,